

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

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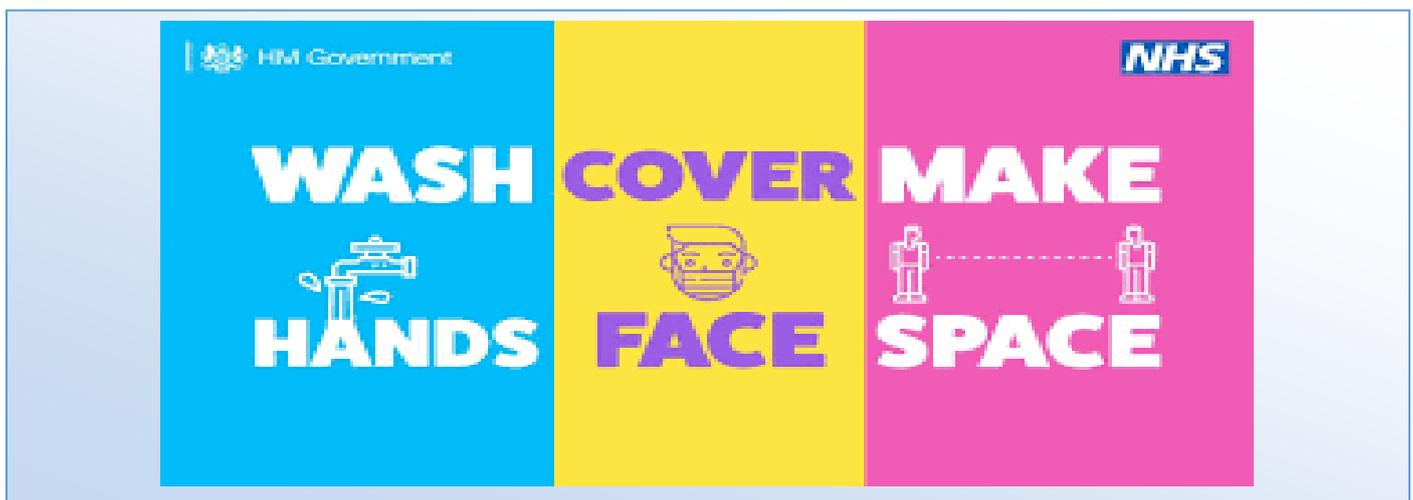
Newsletter 11
22nd January 2021

At St Bernadette's we are fully committed to safeguarding our children. We expect all staff, parents and visitors to share this commitment.

Dear Parents,

As we come to end of the third week of national school closures, I hope that this newsletter finds our pupils, parents and guardians fit and well and in good spirits. By now, hopefully you have established some form of a routine and you are able to follow the timetables set out in last week's newsletter to give your child's day a bit more structure. We know how incredibly hard it is to juggle the many things you are being asked to do at the moment. Please know that we appreciate your efforts hugely and we are here to help should you need us. It is obviously really important that the children are still able to learn during these times of national lockdown and we are doing our very best to ensure that we continue to provide these opportunities through our online provision and through staff coming into school to teach the children of key workers face to face each day. However, there will be days where despite all of our best efforts, things don't go to plan. Maybe the technology fails, maybe your youngest child is unwell and demands all of your attention, maybe the weather is horrendous and the children are completely frustrated by not being able to get outside, maybe you feel stressed and exhausted under the pressure of it all. On those days, please take a step back, breathe and realise that you cannot do it all. Just do what you can. What doesn't get done today can wait. Tomorrow will be a better day. Let us continue to pray for this situation to improve and for the number of people being infected and tragically dying from this awful virus to reduce each day. If you need support, please do contact us. We are only a phone call or email away and we will help in whatever way we can. Just a reminder that parents can email staff with queries regarding their child's work, on their year band email address. Staff will endeavour to get back to you and help you with any issues you or the children maybe having with their work.

If your child attends the nursery you should email nursery@stberns.bham.sch.uk If you have a child in the Reception class then please email reception@stberns.bham.sch.uk Teaching staff who cover classes in year 1 can be contacted at year1@stberns.bham.sch.uk and all other year bands, using the same email address but preceded with the applicable year band.





Baby News

We are once again delighted to announce more baby news and it is so wonderful to hear this in the midst of everything that is going on around us. Mrs Jones has given birth to a healthy baby boy called Indy this week. We wish her a huge congratulations and all the joy and happiness that motherhood brings.



Timetable Rock Stars – Battle of the Bands

TTRS Battle of the Bands begins!

Year 3 - Year 6 will be going head-to-head to find the ultimate TTRS Rock Hero. Play on any game type to count towards the competition, every correct answer = 1 point.

ONE pupil from the whole competition will win the prize. Who will be crowned winner?

Let the battle commence! – See the attached poster for more information.

Free School Meals

Parents/carers of children entitled to Free School Meals will have received their vouchers this week via an email from Edenred. Vouchers cover the period between 18th January to 12th February (4 weeks).

If you experience problems redeeming your voucher, please email : freeschoolmealsparentscarers@edenred.com

Reading

Our teachers and teaching assistants are endeavouring to keep our children reading throughout this lockdown. It is one of the most important activities the children can do to continue learning and to develop their imaginations. Obviously, this is made more difficult during these times as the children cannot change their reading books. However, staff are trying to provide reading opportunities in various ways by adding chapters of plague texts to Seesaw in Key Stage 2 and the RWI or Oxford Owl books in KS1 and Early Years. Our wonderful TAs have been recording themselves reading some of the children's favourite stories which are being shared with our younger readers and Mrs Canning has been sharing chapters of some of her favourite books with our KS2 children.

Please see the attached BEP Reading Newsletter for additional options to enable you to access books online for your children.

Children's Reading Questionnaire

In our quest to continue to improve the reading provision for our children and with particular reference to developing their love for reading, we are conducting a reading for pleasure questionnaire, which has been uploaded to Seesaw for the children to access. We are always keen to hear their opinions and value their views in all the decisions we make regarding their learning. Please encourage your children to complete this short questionnaire and send it back to their teachers via Seesaw so that we can collate the outcomes. There is also a parent questionnaire for you to complete to give your views on reading for pleasure in school. Links for the questionnaires are also included below.

Year 1:

<https://forms.gle/2HAjp7hboKZf16Wt6>

Year 2:

<https://forms.gle/9MAy76WNqK3mFfHZ7>

Year 3:

<https://forms.gle/VbA9JQNQGYcDkt4m8>

Year 4:

<https://forms.gle/GENqSaA7eP4YqX6w6>

Year 5:

<https://forms.gle/j8CcpB5GmEpigqn98>

Year 6:

<https://forms.gle/5P1wwfCcPexJG2x58>

Parents:

<https://forms.gle/QqfDvpGLoQLvqNjk8>

Message To Our Children

To all of our pupils of St Bernadette's,

We hope you are all keeping well and healthy as come to the end of week 3 of lockdown. It has been a difficult week as the weather has been pretty miserable so you may not have been able to get out for a walk, to the local park or in your garden. We know you must be feeling frustrated. Hopefully you are managing to log onto your PE lessons on Seesaw to get some exercise and to keep active. This really helps to keep our minds active and positive so it's really important to get some physical activity into your routine every day.

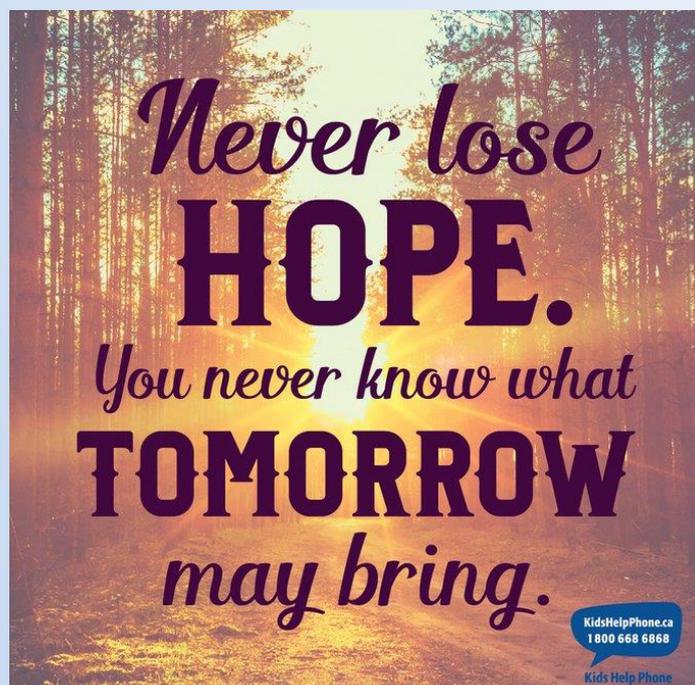
Hopefully, you have been able to follow the timetables that have been set in the previous newsletter. These are the timetables that your class mates are following in school. They are doing exactly the same lessons as you so if you keep up with your online learning, you will not be missing out. We have had some calls and emails from parents saying they are having trouble getting some of you to do your online work. We are astonished by this children, as you all always do your work when you are in school. As your teachers, we know you very well and we know what you are capable of, so please show us this through your online tasks. We understand it can be hard at home to motivate yourself to get stuck into the work, but once you get into your tasks, they will be completed before you know it. Sometimes the thought of doing the work can be worse than actually doing it. Start early, be positive, read and listen to the instructions your teachers are giving you and throw yourselves fully into your tasks. You can do this!! You will also feel so much better once your home learning is done. Then you can enjoy the rest of the day. You will feel happier and have a sense of achievement. You will make your parents so happy as these times are difficult for them too and they need you to be really grown up and co-operate with them. It will also make your teachers so happy as there is no greater reward for us than to receive your wonderful work and see that you are still learning and developing your knowledge and ideas even though you are not all here with us.

Take care of yourselves and continue to do the activities you enjoy – we know you all have a variety of talents. Use this extra time at home to try to develop these gifts and do the things that you love. Share this with us via Twitter, Tapestry or Seesaw. We miss you terribly in school and want to see your faces. We are all looking forward to the days when we will be back together in our classrooms and playgrounds, learning, laughing, playing and growing together.

Until then, take care, be safe, follow the government guidelines to help to fight this virus and know that there are better times ahead for us all.

God bless you all children.

Love the staff of St Bernadette's.



Stars of the Week

Your teachers would like to commend the following children in particular this week:

Nursery

The Nursery staff would like to congratulate Taleah for her online learning. She has been making videos to show us her rhyming skills and telling us about her favourite part of our key text as well as working hard with her phonics. They are also delighted with Freya for her great online rhyming work. In school, Archie has really impressed the staff as he has come back this week after a month and has settled in really quickly and has been busy exploring.

Reception

Miss Deards would like to say a huge well done to Neil for still producing amazing online work whilst welcoming a baby brother to the world! Mrs Dawood is delighted with Arsema who has been showing a keen interest in the activities every single day and has uploaded lots of her home learning too. Miss Fullerton is really impressed with Jaspreet for super independent sentence writing at home.

Year 1

Mrs McGrath is really pleased with Hennessey for wonderful work in Maths. Miss Gibbs & Miss Cowings would like to commend Clay for excellent effort with his Maths and class online work – his shape work was amazing!! Olivia has also made a huge effort in completing her online learning and Cathal for a fantastic effort in all of his online work, especially his Maths and afternoon work.

Year 2

Mr Wayne would like to commend Josie for completing all of her online work, baking some fabulous cupcakes and going back and making corrections when asked to. He is also very pleased with Ahmed for trying hard to complete his online work. Sir really appreciates the effort he is putting into his work. Mrs Lennon is over the moon with Ayaan for his thoughtful RE work on the Sacrament of the Sick and with Alisa for her great sorting of natural and man-made materials in Science. Miss Fiddler would like to say a huge well done to Daisy who is working so hard with all of her online learning and to Amaya for writing a wonderful set of instructions. She is also delighted with Amalia for always putting lots of effort into every piece of work she does. Miss O'Toole is really pleased with Sonny for his excellent online English work. The Year 2 staff would also like to mention how well the children in school are doing. They've been really impressed with the children's hard work every day.

Year 3

Mrs Kelly is very impressed with James and Yusha from 3TK for excellent effort in their online learning. Miss Corkery would like to commend Jaiden for his comprehension activity on Friend or Foe and Rylan for his hard work on addition and subtraction. Mrs Hill would like to mention Georgio, Joshua and Qasim for their brilliant efforts with their online Maths work. They have submitted work every day without fail and she is really proud of their work ethic! Miss Ryan is really proud of Chanel Morbey who is in school at the moment and she is really enthusiastic, helpful and tries her best in all she does. Miss Cahill wants to praise Kaiyan Sadat for his dedication to his online learning.

Year 4

Mrs Brownhill would like to congratulate Justin for his super effort in all online subjects, particularly writing. In RE, Mr Kingston would like to mention Daisy for her responses to links between the angels' messages for the birth of Jesus and John the Baptist. Jakub has impressed Mrs McDaniel due to his fantastic and consistent approach towards his home learning. In Maths, Abigail has been completing fantastic work for Miss Manders. Miss Hulse is also delighted with Sophia's English work and her brilliant spelling test result this week.

Year 5

Miss Grant & Miss Connaire are delighted with Alayna for submitting English work of a really high standard and completing her online learning every day. They are also impressed with Joshua for the great improvements he has made with his home learning. Mr Lavin is also delighted with Alayna (again!!) and Alisan in his Year 5 Maths set for their consistent effort with their online Maths work. Mrs Canning, Mrs Harston and Mr Baker are over the moon with the following children: Jacob for demonstrating a real commitment to learning; Kimii-Li for trying so hard with her Maths and class work online; Hermon for excellent work in Maths and class; Grace for making big efforts in English, Maths and class work; Mason M and Logan-Jay for their efforts in maths; Keigan for his efforts with his English work this week and Darcey for her amazing effort with her work. Miss Grant and Mrs Docker have been delighted with Saoirse in school. She has been a pleasure to teach and completes every task with a real sense of pride. Her work is consistently beautifully presented.

Year 6

Mr Markhan-Jones is delighted with Lawrence, Chanali & Josh S, who have fully embraced the home learning, for trying their best to complete every task. Miss Lakin would like to commend Elisia for her excellent effort in Maths. Miss Boron would like to say a massive well done to Kieran and Khloie for their fantastic work in Maths and a huge well done to Eshan, Macey, Bailey and Scarlett for their continuous hard work in English. Miss Connaire and Miss Grant were really impressed with Miley, Jerin, Riya and Joshua B for their wonderful personification poems. Mr Carroll is also over the moon with Josh S and Ann for their incredible online Maths work.

Keep up the hard work everyone! Thank you and well done 😊

LOCKDOWN PRAYER.

Each morning we wake, another day
consumed by the news of the coronavirus.
Another day facing the same space, the same colours,
the same sounds. We crave for the difference we had,
the freedom we are used to, and the people we met.
As the tears form, please Lord Jesus
fill my uncertainties with peace and strength.
We have always needed it, but now we know it.

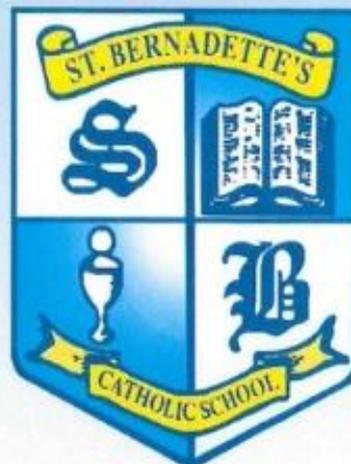
We pray for all who are facing isolation, hardship, hunger,
fear or anxiety. Lord let them know that you are close,
and guide us, where we have time, energy or resources,
to reach out and bring relief.
We should have always done this, but now we know it.

We pray for all those who are sacrificing safety and comfort
so that others can be saved.
For Doctors and nurses, and care workers.
Fill them with your spirit and let them know
that they walk in your footsteps.
It should have always been this way, but now we feel it.

Through this time, help us to draw together in spirit,
even while we are apart.
Help us to seek out the lost and the lonely,
and to know that in all circumstances,
however dark things may seem,
we are loved and we are eternally safe.
Your love has always been like this, help us to know it.

We pray this in Jesus name, Amen.

**WAS YOUR CHILD BORN
BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 2017
- AUGUST 2018?
IF SO, HAVE YOU APPLIED
FOR OUR NURSERY**



*This is a lovely nursery
and everyone, both staff
and children, really care
for each other'*

**Ofsted: Children in the early years
achieve well, particularly in early
literacy and mathematics. In both the
Nursery and Reception classes,
children thrive and develop into
enthusiastic and happy learners.**

**Please visit our school website and
Twitter page to learn more about St
Bernadette's Catholic Primary School
and Nursery and see all the fantastic
learning opportunities that are
available to children that attend.**

www.stberns.co.uk

www.twitter.com/StbernsPrimary

*Teachers are great and they're
always happy to help'*

Speaking and Listening

Playing and exploring

Learning Numbers and Letters

Social Skills and Making Friends

ST BERNADETTE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

For more information please contact the school office on

0121 783 7232

Admission policy applies.

Year 3 – Year 6



1st place wins a prize!

**St Bernadette's Lockdown
Competition
Begins: 21st January**

- *Answer as many questions as possible
- *Play in any game type
- *Every correct answer is worth 1 point
- *The winning pupil will have the highest number of correct answers *



COUNCILLOR IAN WARD
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
COUNCIL HOUSE
VICTORIA SQUARE
BIRMINGHAM
B1 1BB

Tel: 0121 464 4000

Email: Ian.Ward@birmingham.gov.uk

Our Ref: IW/1302tr

20 January 2020

Dear parents/carers

We know how challenging remote education is for families and how disappointed many pupils are that they aren't able to attend school in person at the moment.

As you know, Birmingham's schools worked hard during the autumn term to keep the disruption to your children's education to an absolute minimum. While it was far from a normal autumn term in any school, we were proud with the way schools in Birmingham remained open in the face of growing cases in the city before the Christmas break.

Schools are committed to improving outcomes for children and nobody is more disappointed than school staff that most pupils are not currently able to attend. However, the seriousness of the pandemic means that unfortunately most pupils do need to be at home at the moment.

Schools are striving to make remote education as good as it can be, incorporating best practice as set out by Ofsted on its website (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/whats-working-well-in-remote-education>).

They have quickly set up programmes of work, even though primary schools were given less than 24 hours' notice of closure at the start of January. Mass remote learning is new for everyone and has challenges that schools have never experienced before. Schools will be adapting as time goes on and learning from what works well and what can be improved as well as focussing on pupils' safety at this time.

It is clear that shortfalls in computer equipment and problems with connectivity mean that some pupils are struggling to access remote learning and we have written to the Education Secretary to highlight this digital divide, calling on him to urgently address this gap in provision, to help our young people recover any ground lost during the pandemic.

We are also supporting the Digital Education Partnership's campaign for more devices and connectivity for Birmingham children and young people and have been proud to see how individuals and businesses have rallied round on this issue.

In closing, we want to thank you for supporting your children's schools at this challenging time and we hope that life in our schools will return to normal as soon as possible.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Ward', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Ian Ward
Leader of Birmingham City Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jayne Francis', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Jayne Francis
Cabinet Member for Education, Skills & Culture